

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method to deploy one or more data processing systems, comprising:

providing a plurality of rules that determine the deployment information that are available to deploy on the one or more data processing systems and deployment action on the one or more data processing systems, wherein said data processing systems comprise a processor;

capturing deployment information from a reference data processing system to deploy on said one or more data processing systems, wherein said deployment information is stored in a memory;

selecting said one or more data processing systems;

selecting, by a user, a package of said deployment information to be deployed on said one or more data processing systems, wherein said deployment information to be deployed on said one or more data processing systems comprises a software image and hardware configuration image; and

intelligently deploying said one or more data processing systems upon receiving a command from the user if there is a match between attributes of said package and attributes of said one or more data processing systems, wherein the user selects the package attributes and data processing systems attributes to include and exclude for matching, wherein said intelligently deploying is based on said deployment information that was captured, and includes referencing said package of said deployment information that is stored in said memory, and alternatively, suspending deployment of said one or more data processing systems if there is no match between said attributes of said package and said attributes of said one or more data processing systems.

2. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein said deployment information in said memory is stored on a dedicated data processing system connected to a computer network.

3. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein

capturing said deployment information includes refreshing said deployment information.

4. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein capturing said deployment information includes referencing deployment information stored from a previous instance of deployment of one or more data processing systems.

5. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein said deployment information includes information selected from the group of information consisting of: disk drive partitions, disk drive settings, disk array controller settings, PCI device settings, non-PCI device settings, firmware settings, fixed code settings, operating system information, application software package information, user settings, personalization information, or configuration information.

6. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein said deployment information includes a hardware portion of a configuration and a remaining portion of said configuration, and said intelligently deploying can update said hardware portion of said configuration on a data processing system of said one or more data processing systems before software image deployment, without destructively modifying said remaining portion of said configuration of said one or more data processing systems.

7. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein said deployment information includes a hardware portion of a configuration and a remaining portion of said configuration, and said intelligently deploying can update said hardware portion of said configuration on a data processing system of said one or more data processing systems that has already been configured, without destructively modifying said remaining portion of said configuration of said one or more data processing systems.

8. (currently amended) A computer network to facilitate the intelligent deployment of one or more data processing system, comprising:

one or more data processing systems to be intelligently deployed, wherein said one or more data processing systems comprises a processor;

one or more reference data processing systems containing deployment information, wherein said one or more data processing systems comprises a processor;

a plurality of rules that determine the deployment information that are available to deploy on the one or more data processing systems and deployment action on the one or more data processing systems, wherein;

~~— a means for transmission capable of conveying~~ said deployment information is transmitted to said one or more data processing systems and wherein said deployment information to be deployed on said one or more data processing systems comprises a software image and hardware configuration image; and

a dedicated data processing system containing deployment information copied from said one or more reference data processing systems, wherein said dedicated data processing system conveys to said one or more data processing systems ~~over said means for transmission~~ a package of deployment information selected from said deployment information, which is based on said deployment information that was captured, upon receiving a command from a user, and

wherein said dedicated data processing system compares attributes of said package of said deployment information with attributes of said one or more data processing systems and prevents transmission of said package to said one or more data processing systems if there is no match between said attributes of said package and said attributes of said one or more data processing systems, wherein the user selects the package attributes and data processing systems attributes to include and exclude for matching.

9. (original) The computer network of claim 8, further comprising:

a memory in said dedicated data processing system to store said package of said deployment information.

10. (original) The computer network of claim 8, wherein capturing said deployment information includes referencing deployment information stored from a

previous instance of intelligent deployment of one or more data processing systems.

11. (original) The computer network of claim 8, wherein said deployment information includes information selected from the group of information consisting of: disk drive partitions, disk drive settings, disk array controller settings, PCI device settings, non-PCI device settings, firmware settings, fixed code settings, operating system information, application software package information, user settings, personalization information, or configuration information.

12. (original) The computer network of claim 8, wherein said deployment information includes a hardware portion of a configuration and a remaining portion of said configuration, and said computer network can update said hardware portion of said configuration on a data processing system of said one or more data processing systems before software image deployment, without destructively modifying said remaining portion of said configuration of said one or more data processing systems.

13. (original) The computer network of claim 8, wherein said deployment information includes a hardware portion of a configuration and a remaining portion of said configuration, and said computer network can update said hardware portion of said configuration on a data processing system of said one or more data processing systems that has already been configured, without destructively modifying said remaining portion of said configuration of said one or more data processing systems.

14. (currently amended) A computer usable storage medium ~~program embodied on electronically readable media~~, containing instructions embodied therein that when executed cause a computer system to perform a method for ~~to facilitate the~~ deployment of one or more data processing systems, comprising:

~~a program code segment to capture~~ capturing deployment information from a reference data processing system to deploy on said one or more data processing systems, wherein said deployment information is stored in a memory, wherein said deployment information to be deployed on said one or more data processing systems

comprises a software image and hardware configuration image;

~~a program code segment to select~~ selecting said one or more data processing systems;

~~a program code segment to provide~~ providing a plurality of rules that determine the deployment information that are available to deploy on the one or more data processing systems and deployment action on the one or more data processing systems;

~~a program code segment to select~~ selecting a package of said deployment information to be deployed on said one or more data processing systems, wherein said deployment information to be deployed on said one or more data processing systems comprises a software image and hardware configuration image; and

~~a program code segment to intelligently~~ deploying said one or more data processing systems upon receiving a command from the user, including program code to reference said package of said deployment information that is stored in said memory, if there is a match between attributes of said package and attributes of said one or more data processing systems, and alternatively, to suspend deployment of said one or more data processing systems if there is no match between said attributes of said package and said attributes of said one or more data processing systems, wherein the user selects the package attributes and data processing systems attributes to include and exclude for matching.

15. (currently amended) The computer usable storage medium ~~program~~ of claim 14, wherein said memory that stores said package of said deployment information is included in a dedicated data processing system.

16. (currently amended) The computer usable storage medium ~~program~~ of claim 14, wherein said ~~program code segment to capture~~ capturing deployment information from a reference data processing system to deploy on said one or more data processing systems is executed on a data processing system coupled to a network of data processing systems.

17. (currently amended) The computer-usable storage medium ~~program~~ of claim 14, wherein said ~~program code segment to select~~ selecting one or more data processing systems to be included in said one or more data processing systems is executed on a data processing system coupled to a network of data processing systems.

18. (currently amended) The computer-usable storage medium ~~program~~ of claim 14, wherein said ~~program code segment to select~~ selecting a package of said deployment information to be deployed on said one or more data processing systems is executed on a data processing system coupled to a network of data processing systems.

19. (currently amended) The computer-usable storage medium ~~program~~ of claim 14, wherein said ~~program code segment to~~ intelligently deploying said one or more data processing systems upon receiving a command from user interacts with a network of data processing systems.

20. (currently amended) The computer-usable storage medium ~~program~~ of claim 14, wherein said computer-usable storage medium ~~electronically-readable memory~~ is a non-volatile memory selected from the group of non-volatile memories consisting of: a magnetic disk drive, a magneto-optic disk drive, a floppy diskette, a compact disc and a flash memory.

21. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising:

selecting, by the user, one of a default image capture and a customized image capture, where the default image capture will result in an automatic image capture of all hardware configurations and base software images in the reference data processing system and the customized image capture will result in the image capture of selected hardware configurations, base software images, or incremental capture of images in the reference data processing system.

22. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising:

selecting, by the user, one of a default deployment or a customized deployment, where the default deployment will deploy all hardware configurations and software images that have been captured from the reference data processing system and the customized deployment will deploy selected hardware configuration, base software images or perform incremental deployment of captured information.

23. (previously presented) The computer network of claim 8, wherein the user selects one of a default image capture and a customized image capture, where the default image capture will result in an automatic image capture of all hardware configurations and base software images in the reference data processing system and the customized image capture will result in the image capture of selected hardware configurations, base software images, or incremental capture of images in the reference data processing system.

24. (previously presented) The computer network of claim 8, wherein the user selects one of a default deployment or a customized deployment, where the default deployment will deploy all hardware configurations and software images that have been captured from the reference data processing system and the customized deployment will deploy selected hardware configuration, base software images or perform incremental deployment of captured information.

25. (currently amended) The computer-usable storage medium ~~program~~ of claim 14, ~~wherein the user selects~~ comprising:

selecting one of a default image capture and a customized image capture, where the default image capture will result in an automatic image capture of all hardware configurations and base software images in the reference data processing system and the customized image capture will result in the image capture of selected hardware configurations, base software images, or incremental capture of images in the reference

data processing system.

26. (currently amended) The computer-usable storage medium program of claim 14, ~~wherein the user selects~~ comprising:

selecting one of a default deployment or a customized deployment, where the default deployment will deploy all hardware configurations and software images that have been captured from the reference data processing system and the customized deployment will deploy selected hardware configuration, base software images or perform incremental deployment of captured information.

27. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for deploying at least one target data processing system, comprising:

selecting a reference data processing system, wherein said data processing system comprises a processor;

specifying, by a user, capture information of an image to be captured from the reference data processing system, wherein said capture information includes a name, description and destination of the image;

providing a plurality of rules that determine the capture information that are available to deploy on the target data processing system and deployment action on the target data processing system, wherein said capture information that are available to be deployed on said target data processing system comprises a software image and hardware configuration image;

capturing the capture information or customized capture information from the reference data processing system after selecting an image capture option;

selecting said target data processing system, wherein said target data processing system comprises a processor;

deploying the capture information or customized capture information to the target data processing system based upon a selected deployment option if there is a match between attributes of said captured image and attributes of said target data processing system, and alternatively, suspending deployment of the captured image to the target data processing system if there is no match between said attributes of said captured

image and said attributes of said target data processing system, wherein the user selects the captured image attributes and target data processing system attributes to include and exclude for matching.

28. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 27, further comprising refreshing the capture information or customized capture information.

29. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 27, wherein the capture information includes information selected from the group of information consisting of: disk drive partitions, disk drive settings, disk array controller settings, PCI device settings, non-PCI device settings, firmware settings, fixed code settings, operating system information, application software package information, user settings, personalization information, or configuration information.

30. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 27, wherein the capture information includes a hardware portion of a configuration and a remaining portion of said configuration, and said intelligently deploying can update said hardware portion of said configuration on said target data processing systems before software image deployment, without destructively modifying said remaining portion of said configuration of said target data processing systems.

31. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 27, wherein the capture information includes a hardware portion of a configuration and a remaining portion of said configuration, and said intelligently deploying can update said hardware portion of said configuration on said target data processing systems that has already been configured, without destructively modifying said remaining portion of said configuration of said target data processing systems.

32. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 27, further comprising:

selecting the image capture option by selecting one of a default image capture

and a customized image capture, where the default image capture will result in an automatic image capture of all hardware configurations and base software images in the reference data processing system and the customized image capture will result in the image capture of selected hardware configurations, base software images, or incremental capture of images in the reference data processing system.

33. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 27, further comprising:

selecting a deployment option by selecting one of a default deployment or a customized deployment, where the default deployment will deploy all hardware configurations and software images that have been captured from the reference data processing system and the customized deployment will deploy selected hardware configuration, base software images or perform incremental deployment of captured information.

34. (currently amended) An apparatus for deploying at least one data processing system, the apparatus comprising:

at least one reference data processing system containing capture information, wherein said one or more data processing systems comprises a processor;

at least one target data processing system to be deployed, wherein said one or more data processing systems comprises a processor;

a plurality of rules that determine the capture information that are available to deploy on the target data processing system and deployment action on the target data processing system, wherein said capture information available to be deployed on said target data processing system comprises a software image and hardware configuration image;

a dedicated deployment data processing system, wherein said dedicated deployment data processing system captures and stores in a memory said capture information from said reference data processing system based upon a selected image capture option, and

where the dedicated deployment data processing system conveys to said target

data processing system a package of deployment information selected from said capture information or customized capture information by a user based upon a selected deployment option if there is a match between attributes of said package and attributes of said target data processing system, and alternatively, suspends deployment of said image to said target data processing system if there is no match between said attributes of said package and said attributes of said target data processing system, wherein the user selects the package attributes and target data processing system attributes to include and exclude for matching.

35. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 34, further comprising refreshing the capture information or customized capture information.

36. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein said capture information includes information selected from the group of information consisting of:

disk drive partitions, disk drive settings, disk array controller settings, PCI device settings, non-PCI device settings, firmware settings, fixed code settings, operating system information, application software package information, user settings, personalization information, or configuration information.

37. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein said capture information includes a hardware portion of a configuration and a remaining portion of said configuration, and said deploying can update said hardware portion of said configuration on said target data processing systems before software image deployment, without destructively modifying said remaining portion of said configuration of said target data processing systems.

38. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein said capture information includes a hardware portion of a configuration and a remaining portion of said configuration, and said deploying can update said hardware portion of said configuration on said target data processing systems that has already been configured, without destructively modifying said remaining portion of said configuration of said target

data processing systems.

39. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the user selects an image capture option by selecting one of a default image capture and a customized image capture, where the default image capture will result in an automatic image capture of all hardware configurations and base software images in the reference data processing system and the customized image capture will result in the image capture of selected hardware configurations, base software images, or incremental capture of images in the reference data processing system.

40. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the user selects a deployment option by selecting one of a default deployment or a customized deployment, where the default deployment will deploy all hardware configurations and software images that have been captured from the reference data processing system and the customized deployment will deploy selected hardware configuration, base software images or perform incremental deployment of captured information.

41. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising:

selecting, by a user, one of an default image capture option or a customized image capture option, where the default image capture option automatically captures a capture information from the deployment information for deployment on the target data processing systems, and where the customized image capture option captures a customized capture information comprising one of a base software image, incremental software images, or hardware parameters for deployment on the target data processing systems.

42. (previously presented) The computer network of claim 8, wherein the user selects one of an default image capture option or a customized image capture option, where the default image capture option automatically captures a capture information from the deployment information for deployment on the target data processing systems,

and where the customized image capture option captures a customized capture information comprising one of a base software image, incremental software images, or hardware parameters for deployment on the target data processing systems.

43. (currently amended) The computer-usable storage medium ~~program~~ of claim 14, wherein the instructions further comprises:

~~a program code segment to~~ permitting the user to select one of a default image capture option or a customized image capture option, where the default image capture option automatically captures a capture information from the deployment information for deployment on the target data processing systems, and where the customized image capture option captures a customized capture information comprising one of a base software image, incremental software images, or hardware parameters for deployment on the target data processing systems.

44. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising:

selecting, by the user, one of a default deployment option or a customized deployment option, where the default deployment option deploys the package of said deployment information on said one or more data processing systems, and where the customized deployment option deploys one of a base software image, incremental software images, or hardware parameters on said one or more data processing systems.

45. (previously presented) The computer network of claim 8, wherein the user selects one of a default deployment option or a customized deployment option, where the default deployment option deploys the package of said deployment information on said one or more data processing systems, and where the customized deployment option deploys one of a base software image, incremental software images, or hardware parameters on said one or more data processing systems.

46. (currently amended) The computer-usable storage medium ~~program~~ of

claim 14 further comprising:

~~a program code to permitting~~ a user to select one of a default deployment option or a customized deployment option, where the default deployment option deploys the package of said deployment information on said one or more data processing systems, and where the customized deployment option deploys one of a base software image, incremental software images, or hardware parameters on said one or more data processing systems.

47. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 27, further comprising:

selecting, by the user, one of an default image capture option or a customized image capture option, where the default image capture option automatically captures the capture information for deployment on the target data processing system, and where the customized image capture option captures a customized capture information comprising one of a base software image, incremental software images, or hardware parameters for deployment on the target data processing system.

48. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 34, where a user selects one of an default image capture option or a customized image capture option, where the default image capture option automatically captures the capture information for deployment on the target data processing system, and where the customized image capture option captures a customized capture information comprising one of a base software image, incremental software images, or hardware parameters for deployment on the target data processing system.

49. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising:

setting each rule with an associated priority.

50. (previously presented) The computer network of claim 8, wherein each rule has an associated priority.

51. (currently amended) The computer usable storage medium ~~program~~ of claim 14, further comprising:

~~a program code segment to~~ setting each rule with an associated priority.

52. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 27, further comprising:

setting each rule with an associated priority.

53. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein each rule has an associated priority.